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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/303,356 04/29/99 BACHMANN

D AT9-98-955

EXAMINER

TM02/1024

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ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED:

10/24/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/303,356

Applicant(s)

Bachmann et al.

Examiner

Tam V Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jul 16 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-14, 16-17, and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 15, 18, and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 16 July 2001 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 20) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 6, 15, 18, and 20 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As to claim 6, the prior art of record fails to disclose, "The directory is a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) directory service and the database are managed by a relational database management service".

As to claim 15, the prior art of record fails to disclose, "The directory is a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) directory service and the database are managed by a relational database management service".

As to claim 18, the prior art of record fails to disclose, "The search query is a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) directory service query.

As to claim 20, the prior art of record fails to disclose, "The directory is compliant with the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP).

Drawings

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3. The corrected or substitute drawings were received on 22 July 2001. These drawings are approved.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-5, 7-14, 16-17, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kennedy (US 6134582).

Re claims 1 and 16, Kennedy discloses a method for deleting entries a directory in which directory information is stored in a set of database tables, comprising the step of: response to a request to delete a directory entry, tagging the directory entry in a first table, (According to the specification, the directory service is a "White pages" lookup provided by some e-mail clients), (Col. 11, lines 48-Col. 12, lines 8 and Col. 13, lines 33-Col. 14, lines 68); periodically searching for tagged entries in the first table during a cleanup process interval, (Col. 11, lines 48-Col. 12, lines 8 and Col. 13, lines 33-Col. 14, lines 68); and deleting references to the tagged entries throughout the set of database table, (Col. 11, lines 48-Col. 12, lines 8 and Col. 13, lines 33-Col. 14, lines 68).

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Re claims 2 and 10, wherein the directory entry is tagged by setting its creation time to a given value, (Col. 11, lines 48-Col. 12, lines 8 and Col. 13, lines 33-Col. 14, lines 68)

Re claims 3 and 11, wherein the given value is a null value, (Col. 11, lines 48-Col. 12, lines 8 and Col. 13, lines 33-Col. 14, lines 68).

Re claims 4 and 17, performing a search for directory entries that satisfy a search query, (Col. 13, lines 66-Col. 14, lines 47); and excluding tagged entries from search results that otherwise satisfy the search query, (Col. 21, lines 54-Col. 23, lines 18).

Re claim 5, wherein the step of excluding tagged entries includes modifying an SQL query to exclude rows having null change creation, (Col. 8, lines 51-Col. 9, lines 63).

Re claims 7 and 12, the method as described in claim 1 wherein the first table is an entry table, (Col. 8, lines 51-Col. 9, lines 63).

Re claims 8 and 13, the method as described in claim 7, wherein the set of database tables includes at least one attribute storing information about an attribute, (Col. 8, lines 51-Col. 9, lines 63).

Re claim 9, Kennedy discloses a method for deleting entries from a directory in which directory information is stored in a set of database table, comprising the step of: response to a request to delete a directory entry, tagging the directory entry in a first table, (Col. 11, lines 48-Col. 12, lines 8 and Col. 13, lines 33-Col. 14, lines 68); responsive to a search for directory entries that satisfy a search query, excluding tagged entries from search results that otherwise satisfy the search query, (Col. 13, lines 66-Col. 14, lines 47 and Col. 21, lines 54-Col. 23, lines 8); periodically searching for tagged entries in the first table during a cleanup process interval, (Col. 11, lines 48-Col. 12, lines 8 and Col. 13, lines 33-Col. 14, lines 68); and deleting references to the tagged entries throughout the set of database table, (Col. 11, lines 48-Col. 12, lines 8 and Col. 13, lines 33-Col. 14, lines 68).

Re claim 14, Kennedy discloses a method for searching a database from a directory service, comprising the steps of: responsive to a search for directory entries that satisfy a search query, excluding given entries from search results that otherwise satisfy the search query, wherein the given entries identify database entries that been tagged for deletion, (Col. 11, lines 48-Col. 12, lines 8, Col. 13, lines 33-Col. 14, lines 68, Col. 13, lines 66-Col. 14, lines 47, and Col. 21, lines 54-Col. 23, lines 8).

Re claim 19, Kennedy discloses a directory service, comprising: a directory organized as a naming hierarchy having a plurality of entries each represented by a

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unique identifier, (Col. 12, lines 22-64); a relational database management system having a backing store for storing directory data in a set of database entries, (Col. 8, lines 51-27); and means for deleting entries from the directory, comprising: means responsive to a request to delete a directory entry for tagging the directory entry in a first table, (Col. 11, lines 48-Col. 12, lines 8 and Col. 13, lines 33-Col. 14, lines 68); means for periodically searching for tagged entries in the first table during a cleanup process interval, (Col. 11, lines 48-Col. 12, lines 8 and Col. 13, lines 33-Col. 14, lines 68) ; means for deleting references to the tagged entries throughout the set of database tables, (Col. 11, lines 48-Col. 12, lines 8 and Col. 13, lines 33-Col. 14, lines 68); and means responsive to a search for directory entries that satisfy a search query for excluding tagged entries from search results that otherwise satisfy the search query, (Col. 13, lines 66-Col. 14, lines 47 and Col. 21, lines 54-Col. 23, lines 8).

Contact Fax Information

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or Faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communication intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 308-5399, (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA. Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

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Contact Information


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tam Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-3735. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Yen Vu, can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-5399.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

TV:tv

10/19/00


KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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